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Office of University Communications

April 3, 2013

Events and Activities Designed to Acclimate Graduates to Life in the "Real World"

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Each fall, incoming freshmen are welcomed to the Gardner-Webb campus with an orientation that marks the start of their undergraduate educational journey. As graduation approaches for seniors though, many of them are faced with the anxieties of entering the "real world," for which many have had little preparation.

In order to reduce these anxieties, the Gardner-Webb University Office of Student Leadership will present the second annual Senior Disorientation Week April 8-14. The theme will be "What Road Will You Travel?" and events and activities are designed to honor graduating seniors' college accomplishments and provide them with the resources they need to thrive in life after graduation.

"Education includes preparation," said Lisa Yerrick, director of career development at Gardner-Webb University. "Our students have spent most of their time and focus on preparing for jobs or careers, and less time on preparing for life outside of school. The information presented this week will help students begin to prepare for life outside of school, such as managing money, living alone and finding new resources in new communities."

Festivities will kick off Monday, April 8 in Tucker Student Center's (TSC) Faith, Stewart and Hope Halls from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with "Fueling Stations," where seniors can gather information on various topics. These workshops will tackle subjects including finding a job, living life after college, and managing money.

On Wednesday, April 10, officials will host a Student Disorientation Fair in TSC's Faith Hall from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. At the fair, information and resources will be made available to seniors, as well as the opportunity to receive giveaways. Later that day, the program "Student Loan Repayment: The Time is Coming" will be held in Faith Hall from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The talk will feature Summer Nance of the Gardner-Webb University Financial Planning Office. She will present information about paying back student loans, private loan repayment and the importance of taking student loan repayment seriously.

A professional image dinner will be offered Thursday, April 11 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in TSC's Hope Hall. At the dinner students will learn how to make a good first impression during an interview, with a focus on interviews over meals. The Gardner-Webb University

Department of Career Development will host the dinner and will also offer tips on appropriate interview attire.

An Alive After Five "Student Edition" will be held on Friday, April 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on TSC's Terrace (facing Lake Hollifield). All Gardner-Webb students are welcome to this celebration to honor the senior class. There will be food, live-entertainment and games sponsored by the office of student activities.

On Saturday, April 13, the seniors will be offered the chance to serve the community one last time as a class. The service project is planned from 9 a.m. to noon. The week's activities will culminate with Senior Pinning, a Gardner-Webb tradition for nearly a decade, on Sunday, April 14 at 3:30 p.m. in TSC's Stewart Hall. Seniors are encouraged to invite their family to attend this elegant afternoon dessert reception in their honor.

"We know we can't solve every issue that new graduates will face as they commence into a new life," Yerrick shared. "But, we want to begin those conversations and offer the people, places and resources that will help them the most."

For more information on any of the planned activities, call the SGA Office at 704-406-4742, or the Office of Student Leadership at 704-406-3832.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 55 major and minor programs of specialized study, a comprehensive academic experience that flows from our Christian commitment to intellectual freedom, service and leadership.